THE AMENDMENTS

In The Specification:

Amend the paragraph starting at page 24, line 14:

Microscopic examination of the slides reveals that cells positive for expression of $p16^{INK4a}$ and mcm2 are only found in samples that are microscopically identified as samples of dysplastic lesions. Cells stained by the $p16^{INK4a}$ specific reaction that are identifiable as metaplasias are not stained by the reaction specific for mcm2. The microscopic inspection of the mRNA hybridization shows that metaplastic cells over-expressing $p16^{INK4a}$ do not significantly express mRNA of mcm2. Dysplastic cells, in contrast, are stained by in situ hybridization with probes specific for mcm2, and with probes directed against $p16^{INK4a}$. So, in contrast to dysplastic cells, in metaplastic cells, no double staining using the ~~Ki67~~ mcm2 and $p16^{INK4a}$ specific probes is observed.